

ABLE TOGETHER

JANUARY, 1995 Volume 2, Number 1

*a quarterly newsletter serving abled
and disabled gay and bisexual men*

Lavender Library Archives
and Cultural Exchange
Sacramento, CA

9812

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YOU ARE VERY WELCOME TO THE SECOND ISSUE OF THE NEW ABLE-TOGETHER NEWSLETTER!

When I think about you all I am struck by how *full of hope* all of you are; it is this hope that has you dig into your pockets for your subscription dollars and dig into your selves for the personal ad material, letters and articles you share with us. Thank you for, in this way, sharing your hope.

October's A-T had sixty-four ads and this January issue boasts ninety-nine. And we notice the good signs: that ABLE-TOGETHER is continuing to build name recognition in the disabled and gay communities; and that an average week's mail now brings twelve new inquiries and six new subscriptions.

Hoping is all about *the ability to notice the good signs* and thereby to feel good about who we are and what we are doing. And it is about sharing the good news with others so as to help them reinforce *their* hope. So we welcome your letters telling us that ABLE-TOGETHER has made you feel good, that it has in some way *worked* for you, and on the letters page we share some extracts together with our responses.

Also in this issue are two wonderful pieces of writing which we hope will speak to you. Jonathan Farrell talks about the coming-out-twiceness of being gay and disabled *and* sexual; and in Peter Damien's account of a visit with his sixteen-year-old son we see two men in an intimate relationship, one physically challenged, the other struggling to accept and understand this, and both struggling to *change and grow accordingly*. This seems *entirely* what A-T is all about. A very warm *thank you!* to both of you for sharing your explorations with us.

In future issues we hope to help each other explore more into the *meaning* that our own, and others' disabilities have for us. Why do some (many?/most?) of us feel differently about some (many?/most?) conditions, abilities and presentations? Why do some subscribers' ads read the way they do? We hope that more of you will be courageous enough to share with the rest of us in print your explorations into these sensitive topics.

And this is the hope of ABLE-TOGETHER: that as we share ourselves in these ways our abilities to notice the good signs and positive signals in and around us are enhanced and we all come further into our hope *to become ever better at being in relationship with ourselves and with each other!*

HOW WE ARE GROWING

Since October we have sent out flyers to the disabled students' programs and the gay and lesbian students' associations of one hundred and fifty colleges in the US and Canada, and we have sent informational materials to three hundred independent living centers; and we have advertised in ten regional gay newspapers, and nationally in *New Mobility*, *Advocate Classifieds* and *Disability Rag*.

FROM
THE
EDITOR'S
DESK

ABLE-TOGETHER is news. Further exposure for us comes from one-off news items in the newsletters of organizations such as the American Association of Physicians for Human Rights and the Boston Information Center for Individuals with Disabilities, as well as in local gay newspapers such as the *San Francisco Bay Area Reporter*. We will send out more press releases nationally and internationally at a future date to announce how we are doing, and so endeavor to keep A-T in the news.

ABLE-TOGETHER is also politics and history and we are proud to have subscribers such as the World Institute on Disability in Oakland, California, the Homodok Archives in Amsterdam, The Netherlands and the Danish Stop Aids Campaign. A-T is on resource lists and bulletin boards throughout the US and copies are also on file or otherwise available at a number of local centers. It looks like, this time, we're here, queer, growing strong and staying put!



A-T BECOMES MORE FRIENDLY TO NEW SUBSCRIBERS

In the week before publication we received twelve new inquiries and new subscriptions from six men, of whom four included a personal ad text. Whilst we are happy with our progress we are continually looking at things we might do to help more people who send in inquiries decide to become subscribers, and more subscribers to place personal contact ads. For instance subscribers can use the new voice-mail to ask us for help over the telephone with putting an ad together.

Many men making a first-time inquiry to us say they would like to see an issue of ABLE-TOGETHER before committing to a full year's subscription. To accommodate this understandable preference and to make A-T even more subscriber-friendly we now offer single issues at \$10 (\$5 low income); the upgrade to a full subscription is then made by payment of the balance of \$20 (\$10 low income) and the new subscriber's ad appears in the following three issues.

A number of inquirers ask us for a "sample" of personal contact ads and a number of new subscribers who have not placed ads in this issue have told us that they wish to see the issue before deciding what they might say in an ad. We understand both positions and we believe it would be helpful to these men if we were to incorporate into the information and subscription materials sent to inquirers a random page of ads from which names, place names and addresses and telephone numbers have been deleted. *We would like to know what subscribers would feel about our doing this and welcome and actively solicit your feedback!*



A-T GETS A TELEPHONE NUMBER

ABLE-TOGETHER is experimenting with the use of a voice-mail telephone number which is now published with our ads and appears on subscription and outreach materials. We hope inquirers will find it useful, whether they have specific questions or, by generating personal contact in this way, just to get a better feel of what A-T is about. We hope existing subscribers also will find it of use for letting us know of changes to your ads - or just to touch base with us. A-T is about relationship and we value knowing you and our personal contact with you.

Keep in touch with us on (415) 522 9091!

- I just received your new newsletter, and wanted to drop you a quick line to let you know that I am quite impressed with the new format. The booklet style for the newsletter I feel is a great idea. Keep up the good work, I shall be looking forward to the next newsletter.

SC, Los Angeles, CA

Sal, thank you for your feedback and we hope you like this issue. We are indebted to another California subscriber for the idea of the booklet style. All subscribers' suggestions on how we might improve A-T are greatly appreciated and listened to by us.

LETTERS

- Many thanks... for a sensational new ABLE-TOGETHER! I particularly like the booklet-type presentation instead of several pages stapled together. It is well-organized, clear, and entertaining - things lacking in the old A-T. A heartfelt *Bravo!* to all who are responsible...I have received a couple of replies to my ad...

JS, San Francisco, CA

- Congratulations on the October issue of ABLE-TOGETHER. You guys have done a beautiful job.... Thank you for not using a type so small that I couldn't read it with my magnifying glass.... I really enjoyed the article by Brian Tsai. I found it to be enlightening and encouraging. I hope that you will be able to have more of such positive input in your future issues.

ST, Jackson, MS

Thanks Sam! We're glad we came through for you on the type size. And we're very glad Brian's article was meaningful for you. We encourage subscribers to share their experiences with us all in this way; previous writing experience is not necessary as we will help with editing.

- It's a handsome new format you've put together, and I think you should be congratulated on it. You should also be commended, if it's not patronizing, on how good your grammar is, especially when it has been more common to find slipshod language and style.

GB, Beverly Hills, CA

Glen, your recognition of our efforts is very greatly appreciated! A heartfelt thank you.

- Enjoyed the first issue of the new ABLE-TOGETHER. Good luck.

TT, Arlington Heights, IL

- Thanks for sending me a sample issue of ABLE-TOGETHER. Well done! Good start...feels good to be a part of ABLE-TOGETHER.

KS, Kailua, HI

- I received my copy of ABLE-TOGETHER. It is very well done- I hope it becomes very successful. I showed a copy to my neighbour and friend [...] He is interested and will contact you soon.

RH, San Francisco, CA

Thank you Bob! Your friend has not yet contacted us, but we look forward to his doing so. Your and other subscribers' enthusiasm for A-T is an important component of our outreach; if you all each recruit only one person, think of how fast we will grow, and of all the wonderful people we will all meet.

- I just have received ... the first issue of A-T. I think it is excellent - you have done a wonderful job in layout, design, concept, content and execution. You are to be commended! Enclosed another check for the good of the cause. I feel it is the least I can do to support your work. I [encourage] others who can do so to send a little extra on a periodic basis.... Thank you so much for your efforts and energy - it is truly appreciated.

JF, Sacramento, CA

We are so very grateful to you, Jon: you have been exceedingly generous both in your praise of our efforts and by your cash donations to help fund our outreach campaign.

*You deserve our recognition for your sincere dedication to our cause. A number of other subscribers having some dollars to spare have also donated amounts in excess of the subscription fee: a very warm and heartfelt **thank you** to all of you on behalf of us all. Subscribers' donations are an important part of our funding, and we continue to be touched by the generosity of ABLE-TOGETHER's population.*

- I wanted you to know that as a result of ABLE-TOGETHER [...] and I have struck up a great friendship. We talk on the 'phone frequently and see each other about once a week...and he has been a great support... I'm also in touch with a couple of other great guys...With all the things going on with me... I feel for the first time that my life has not ended by being disabled.

BT, San Francisco, CA

Brian, you have been so open and giving to A-T in so many ways, and we are so delighted to hear that being part of our endeavor is working for you! A very warm thank you for writing to give us your good news and for continuing to be a part of our good news.

Dear Peter and Steven:

It was great to receive the first issue of the new ABLE-TOGETHER! The new format and style are outstanding. It is gratifying to see the overall growth and longevity of ABLE-TOGETHER. I remember when Jarrod International began all this back in 1976. I really don't think any of us would have predicted that here, almost twenty years later, the newsletter would still flourish.

During the time (1985-1992) that we were publishing ABLE-TOGETHER here in Los Angeles we began to notice the changes. Early on we were an "underground" publication. Members were solicited strictly through word of mouth; then later on we advertised in the "classifieds". Little by little we began to receive publicity in columns and directories. Our list grew. Pat Califia gave us several referrals through her column in the Advocate. Thank you, Pat, for your loyal support. Drummer ran our classified advertising even when we couldn't afford to pay them. Thank you, Drummermen! Spinal Network gave us much appreciated press coverage - the most supportive of any of the disabled community publications. By the time we ceased publication in 1992 we were mailing out over 200 copies of each edition.

We were extremely gratified to hear of your desire to carry forth ABLE-TOGETHER. It is good to hear how many organizations for the disabled have expressed interest in A-T since you have relaunched the publication. We encourage all subscribers to run an ad. The publication has always attracted the most new members when it was thick with ads. Post a note at the student center of the ILC. Put up a note on the bulletin board at the VA. Run an ad or send a press release to your local bar rag. If every member will help spread the word, ABLE-TOGETHER will be bigger than ever! Wishing you much success and growth,

James-Brad and JH, Los Angeles, CA.

Guys - how can we ever thank you enough for picking up the torch from Jarrod in the same way as we have inherited it from you! Your praise feels wonderful, as does the recognition and growth A-T currently enjoys, which is built upon the foundations you laid in those "underground" days; and upon the wonderful bunch of subscribers to your A-T who have come back on board ours. We have sent out press releases and "please post" flyers as you advise, and we continue to do so; and our subscribers are helping to spread the word locally and on network bulletin boards. And we hope that subscribers who have not yet sent in their ads will heed your injunction to do so for April! Our print run for this issue will be 250 - enjoy, guys, you deserve it!



THE PRODIGAL SON

Since my vision loss four years ago I had always seen Michael, my sixteen-year-old son, in the company of friends and in the context of carefully "arranged" pastimes - his bar mitzvah, rides, films, tours to various museums. I thought I was being the ideal divorced father spending quality time with his son. Now I wonder. Maybe I was too afraid, until that weekend, to be alone with Michael as a blind man. Maybe, intuitively, I was afraid of what in fact came up.

On the Saturday we took the ferry to Sausalito and back and we rented some films so that I could show off my new huge TV with SAP (second audio program) describing the visual action. All, again, nicely "arranged". But on Sunday, instead of listening to Michael watching sports on TV, I wanted to go to the Mall at the San Francisco Center. I explained to him that I need to be verbally guided along sidewalks and in large spaces; that with my kind of vision loss mobility in crowded and unstructured surroundings is the biggest problem; I explained about restricted visual fields; I explained sighted guide techniques and I thought he understood.

We had barely entered the Center through the MUNI station on the bottom floor and we were having an argument. He wouldn't let me hold his arm; he walked ahead of me or behind me; he didn't say where we were or what changes were coming like escalator entries or steps. My dog, Pastel, was as disoriented as I was. I asked Michael point blank if he was embarrassed to be seen with me. He grunted: *no, Dad, it's just...* He had no answer. After walking into a wall I asked him again for verbal descriptions. I asked the third time after ripping my knuckles open on a banister that attacked me out of nowhere. Then, after stumbling over somebody's foot, I drove him to a dead stop and *demanded* verbal cues: *stand still and keep talking to me until I find you; this has to stop now; you need to understand my disability...* It was an awkward and somewhat awful moment for both of us.



I was tired after the week. I wanted a weekend off from the blind business. I just wanted to go to the Mall with my son. Certainly I was experiencing Michael as inadequately meeting my needs - but what was I bringing to this? I checked in with my anxiety: *I think I know why I'm getting so grouchy with you; I'm afraid I'm going to mess up out here, embarrass you, embarrass myself; I really hate walking into people and walls and banisters; I know you're not used to this, and I don't want to be dependent, but...* Michael clearly didn't want this either: *isn't the dog for that?* he pleaded. But my non-self-sufficiency was a fact, however uncomfortable for us both: *I can't walk out of MUNI and say to her find the men's department in Nordstrom!*

Over frozen non-fat, sugar-free yogurt that *had* to be fattening anyway (I asked him to read the sign three times in disbelief), we started to iron out the issues. Thanks to the fact that he inherited his mother's good nature instead of my rough and insecure one, we ended up laughing through it. Michael is beginning to get it; parents are not perfect and they are mortal; some parents become *blind* and not always self-sufficient. And often the learning of unfamiliar ways of being with a loved person is hard and scary for both.

Peter Damien, who lives in San Francisco, is a counselor and writer; this writing in its original form is part of a to-be-published anthology.

ARTICLES

GRAVITY PULLS ME FORWARD

Ten years ago back in Catholic High School I was one of those people in the closet. Since coming out - of the dark and into the light - I have embraced not only my sexuality but also my situation as a person with cerebral palsy. I now see both as part of my life rather than as obstacle, problem or disability.

Coming out as a gay man was first and gave me a new sense of inner peace. But I found that, once the novelty and excitement of being in the gay culture began to diminish, my experience of my sexuality was still very much the same as before. I was still struggling to be seen as a sexual being, struggling with questions such as *am I attractive? - can I perform well for a lover? - will I be able to accept a person who finds me attractive?* These questions still rose up in my mind as I faced a world drenched in erotic images of the perfect physical form. Where did I and the average person (no matter the sexual orientation) fit in to this scheme of things? And is the last of these questions more pregnant for me than for a person having no "physical challenge"?

It was while I was working as benefits counselor at an ILC that I learned to accept my disability and not try to hide it and, most of all, to feel no shame because of it. I learned to integrate this acceptance into my sense of my sexuality and spirituality. One of my co-workers was very supportive. Vicki also had the experience

of growing up with CP. Vicki knew well those days of the poster children, the days of straining just to be accepted *near* to the quasi-angelic perfect imperfection of telethon status. Yes, she had survived all of that.

And now it was time for me too to break free! One day I was asked to make a presentation to the ILC staff: it was to be my choice of subject, and Vicki helped put it together. My previous experience of the topic of sexuality was that there were no role models for me as a disabled person; neither was much direction to be found even from advocates for the disabled. Now I was surprised to see all the resources Vicki referred me to. Another world opened up for me. No more fear about sex! Yes, I can even mention words such as masturbation without a blush of embarrassment! My audience were a little uncomfortable with the topic, but as my presentation unfolded I noticed that despite their discomfort they wanted to continue the discussion, and I felt a sense of release, resolution. I sensed a new, mutual awareness of issues of sexuality and disability. And I noticed too that I was feeling more, well, *myself*.

Vicki, who is married to a very talented and creative man, was a wonderful mentor to me; she would often say to me *when people ask about the way I walk I just say, hey, gravity pulls me forward!* I experience this little phrase of hers as wonderfully affirming. And very helpful: I continue to be amazed by the dumb things people still say to me - but now as an adult to an adult I do not feel I have to explain my condition to the truly ignorant - just a phrase like that is enough and I am able to move on. And it's a pretty good line also to say to a guy who's truly trying to make a date and maybe just needs a little encouragement - in such a case I can choose not to move on and stay to check it out!

My experience growing up was of the idea that people with disabilities don't have a sex life - they are like angels. Well, I do not take the angelic route anymore. We are sexual beings, our sexuality being an integral part of our physical incarnation on earth. I am here, I am queer and, may I say, *hey, gravity pulls me forward!*

Jonathan Farrell is a writer living in San Francisco, Ca.



A-T BULLETIN BOARD

THERE IS A SUPPORT GROUP FOR GAY AND BISEXUAL MEN WITH DISABILITIES AT THE INDEPENDENT LIVING RESOURCE CENTER, 70 TENTH STREET, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94103. THE GROUP MEETS FRIDAYS BETWEEN 11.30 AND 1.00 AND IS FACILITATED BY PETER DAMIEN.

**CALL PETER AT (415) 431 1481
FIRST FOR DETAILS.**

SERVICES

!!ABLE-TOGETHER ON TAPE FOR THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED!!

If you or a friend would like to receive A-T on audio tape:

- **place a blank cassette tape in a cassette container:**
- **write your name & address on a return label:**
- **in the place of a postage stamp, write:
"Free matter for the blind and disabled"**
- **mail to:**

**KEVIN COLLIN
THE CENTER, DISABLED SERVICES
POB 3357, SAN DIEGO, CA
92163-6357**

*Please let us know of your local groups and other news
and information appropriate for the bulletin board.*

SCIENCE OF SELF-HEALING

People always have questions regarding the health and wholeness of the physical body. The perennial answer is that a major cause of dis-ease is a mental/emotional imbalance within the psyche - mind and soul - of the person; if the state continues for a long enough time it will manifest into the physical body.

Although everyone hopes for health, wellness and vigor the basic universal principles are not always adhered to. Thus deterioration and dis-integration occurs and dis-ease and aging result. Our human body - when in perfect balance - is like a finely attuned orchestra; each cell of each organ is in resonance with each other cell, organ, each with its own perfect tone and vibration. And the degree of frequency of vibration of the whole body orchestra is determined moment by moment upon the thoughts and emotions within the psyche.

When negative thoughts and emotions arise - including fear, hate, anger, concern, &c - this lowers the harmony tones of the body and its aura of energy. And when a deep traumatic experience of the past is not released it can over time lodge itself within a certain part or organ of the physical body and the decreased harmony within that part can lead to pain and dis-ease.

But when a man is able to maintain harmony and peace within himself, embracing positive feelings and thoughts, the orchestra and his own individual music is kept in perfect resonance. Yes exercise and diet are also important factors - plenty of exercise and eating fresh uncooked vegetables fruits and grains (which contain the highest energy in the foods) - but the most important factor by far in health is the person's usual, everyday manner of experiencing and expressing his thoughts and emotions. Which is to say his *ongoing personality, self-image and outlook on life*.

I believe there are practices and techniques that can increase our vigor, vitality and energy whatever our present state of being. These are the perennial holistic and spiritual approaches to the goal of wellness whereby we can consciously with our thoughts, feelings and imagery increase the harmony tones and vibration of our whole body and energy-field - the aura and energy around the body. Many of these techniques are now being applied more widely by health field practitioners and meta-physicians. A practice of major importance and benefit is the meditation whereby the individual goes within himself and focuses in stillness on certain qualities that he aspires to manifest in himself. This practice strengthens the mental clarity, controls the emotions and increases peace, harmony, vigor and health in the whole person.

David Glen is the editor-producer of two spiritually-oriented publications: Universal Truth, and Heaven's Little Angels. If you are interested to contact David you may write to him at POB 815, Joshua Tree, CA. 92252

GUIDE TO A-T CONTACT AD LISTINGS

USER
GUIDE

How to reply to a coded ad: put your letter in an envelope, seal it, and put the A-T code # of the advertiser you are replying to in the top right corner of the envelope; put this envelope, together with the correct reimbursement for forwarding, please, (see below), in another envelope, seal, address to A-T and mail! You may respond to as many coded ads as you wish, and put all the numbered envelopes in one larger envelope to mail to us.

We believe the best kind of ad is the one that gives the reader the clearest picture of who you are. We therefore encourage ad length and accurate statement of personal statistics such as age and weight. You should bear in mind that our subscribers are likely to want to know whether you are disabled or abled, so please include this information, and try to be as detailed as you can about yourself and your way of being and presentation in the world, because it very greatly helps both you and potential responders if they can gain a reasonable picture you from the ad. *We encourage changes and updates to ads!*

Sexually explicit or overly fetishistic material is edited out of personal contact ads submitted to ABLE-TOGETHER; this is because many of our subscribers are offended by such material, and because our circulation includes, eg ILCs, where a copy may be kept for reference, and this additional source of potential new members is important. *If you are dissatisfied with this policy we will cancel your subscription.*

ABLE-TOGETHER does not profit from forwarding replies to coded contact ads, but we do ask that you send us full reimbursement for our postage costs in forwarding your reply to the advertiser:

- mostly, for US responses to US advertisers, this will be a 32¢ stamp, but please note that heavier items cost more to send, and when in doubt, please check at the post office;
- for overseas responders who do not have US stamps and wish to send a \$1 bill, this will cover three replies;

Remittance of forwarding costs may be made to ABLE-TOGETHER in valid US postage stamps, in currency, or by check or money order. All payments are sent to us at sender's risk. ABLE-TOGETHER does not accept responsibility for materials sent to us to be forwarded, and we reserve the right to destroy materials not accompanied by adequate reimbursement for forwarding costs.

**PERSONAL CONTACTS INITIATED THROUGH
ABLE-TOGETHER CONTACT AD LISTINGS ARE
DONE SO ENTIRELY AT THE RISK AND ON THE
RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PERSONS CON-
CERNED: WE ENCOURAGE YOUTO MAKE SURE
YOU ARE DOING WHAT YOU WANT TO BE DO-
ING, AND WITH THE PERSON YOU WANT TO BE
DOING IT WITH; IF YOU DECIDE TO BE SEXUAL
WITH SOMEONE YOU ARE VERY STRONGLY
URGED FIRSTTO CALL YOUR LOCAL AIDS/STD
HOTLINE FOR ADVICE.**

SEEKING AN AMPUTEE WHO LIKES OLDER MEN. I'm 72, 5'7", 140#. Some say that I'm loving, sexy, gentle and mature. I think of myself as healthy, independent, and totally out as a gay man. No macho athlete, but I swim, hike and bike a bit. Retired, my interests now lie in volunteering, classical music, science and agnostic religion. I am relationship oriented and have deep roots in Alaska, and would love to meet someone here or who might want to relocate in this great place. But I'm equally happy to travel to meet you. I hope you might think I'm an interesting person, perhaps even a 'nice catch', and I'd love to hear from you! *Fred Hillman, 1685 Stanton Avenue, Anchorage, AK 99508-5034.*

ARIZONA. GWM 37, 5'8", 220lbs, disabled with cerebral palsy, looking for friendship first, then maybe more later. Prefer you to be in age range 44-64. I will answer all who write. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #710.*

PENPAL-BUDDY. I am a Bi(G)WM, soon 60, 5'10", 160#, bald, cleanshaven, healthy, HIV negative, newly retired and closeted. I have resisted my desires for years because of professional and family considerations - but I am now ready to volunteer my talents and skills on a sexual level to abled and disabled caring, goodhearted, healthy men of all ages and all cultures who are inclined to want an inexperienced buddy once in a while. Want to teach me? I'm a good learner! *Dick, POB 907, Fremont, CA 94537-0907*

HELLO GUYS! My name is Chris. I'm a 31 year old para in San Francisco hoping to find friends, fun and just maybe a long term relationship in these pages! I'm, 5'6", 130lbs, reddish blond and blue eyes. I enjoy country / western music, Roseanne, my art work, sunshine, rainy days in bed, evenings at home, laughter and smoking (oops!) my cigs. Hope to hear from you soon - and pictures much appreciated! If you're interested please call ph. (415) 923 9213 or write me at 926 Fillmore #104, *San Francisco, CA 94117.*

ORANGE COUNTY, CA. Hi, I'm 41, 5'7", 190# Bi male. I enjoy Skin & Scuba Diving, Cycling, Tennis, Photography and Astronomy among other activities. I have a slight physical inconvenience from having contracted Polio in my left leg and hip as a child, but it hasn't slowed me down much. I would like to meet other Bi males, Gays or Bi couples, who are physically able or inconvenienced. It is my hope to meet others who share some of the activities noted - and who would also enjoy (with respect to our feelings and desires) the gentle warmth that comes to those who experience the joy, pleasures and eroticism of giving as well as receiving pleasure to fulfillment. Please enclose a photo, and preferably your phone number. Hopefully a friend, Sal. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #520.*

SAN DIEGO AREA. Shy GWM, post-polio with leg brace, younger looking 40's, likes nude fun and SM/BD games indoors and out. Not into the bar scene - enjoy quiet evenings at home, dinner out, travel, etc. Interested in meeting guys able or disabled for friendship, pen pals, safe sex, etc. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #137.*

SAN FRANCISCO. Hi! I'm JJ, a GWM, 45, 5'7", 140lbs, HIV negative, with a neuromuscular disorder. Use cane much of the time, but work out in the gym and at home. Enjoy music from classical to rock, good food and wine, X-rated videos, safe sex. Would love to meet others in the Bay Area for friendship and companionship. Possible LTR if you're GWM, 40-55, nonfat, HIV negative. Hairy a plus. Penpals welcomed. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #521.*

CALIFORNIA. Gay blind man with an eye for beauty seeks friend for fun and honest relationship. Will take him sight unseen. Sensitive and fun please reply, San Diego area. *Kevin Collin, POB 3357, San Diego, CA 92163-3357.*

CALIFORNIA. YO: An early-retired professional, non-mainstream, dominant, Mediterranean, of intellectual and sentimental depth, searching internationally for mature companion of substance. I aspire to a synergistic and practical (not idealistic) union based on playfulness, direct communication, comprehension, appreciation, and romantic or platonic love. I've been called witty, earthy, compassionate, artistic, bohemian, outspoken, and a perennial quester of truth and quality. TU: Perhaps disabled, elderly, unaffectedly effeminate, chronically ill, physically unfit, a curmudgeon, or in any other way "unmarketable". SI: Non-conformity, liberalness, awareness, non-materialism, high-mindedness, robust fun, authenticity, turbulent sex, refinement, softness/sensitivity, East Coasters, Europeans, Cubans, and Japanese. NO: Euphemisms, enneagram number threes, conspicuous political correctness,



hypermasculinity, emotional shallowness, mindlessness, addictions to busyness, tobacco, or perfume. INTERESES: Overnight motor trips, dry climates, substantial relationships, disclosing conversation, female friends, orchids, massage, yesteryear's theater and films, practical psychology (e.g. the enneagram), fine eateries, classic jazz, inner growth, correspondence via cassette tape, erotica, elders, new experiences, literary modern classics, the blues, estate sales, teratology, animals (except house cats), word games, sallying. CAUSAS: Advocacy for prisoners, PWAs, and consumers, Environmental detox. LIMITACIONES: Due to sleep apnea, multiple chemical sensitivities, and intractable upper-back pain, I socialize in the slow lane (occasionally in the S. Francisco Bay Area). R. F. G., POB 351, Santa Cruz, CA 95061-0351. Evenings: (408) 423 1155.

CALIFORNIA. Young senior, not yet dim-witted, 5'6" and 147#, blue-eyed and blond-turning-gray, abled. I am seeking a humorous, bright, reasonably independent young man, slim, goodlooking and of medium-size and build; I prefer someone who is pleasant and aware, 30-40ish, largely abled, considerate with interest in self and others, n/s, n/d, HIV- and conventional. *Glen A. Bennett, POB 2047, Beverly Hills, CA 90213.*

SEEKS FRIENDSHIP WITH LOVE. My name is David. I am a 28 yr old college boy, 5'10", strong and in good shape. Dark-brown hair and, am told, very good looking. I love people and desire friendships, pen-pals and possible relationship. I am a warm, caring, out-going person who likes humor, fun-loving, happy-go-lucky type people. I love children, nature and animals. I teach the Healing Arts and Spirituality. I do massage. I live near Palm Springs, Ca, and enjoy visitors. Male or female, any color, nationality and any age are welcomed to reply. *David Glen, POB 815, Joshua Tree, CA 92252.*

SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA. Outgoing, energetic, abled man, 35, 5'11", 175#, who enjoys adventure, romance, keeping busy and quiet times, nature and city life, friendship and balance, would like to correspond with and meet disabled man who shares an active mind and a love of life. I'm a health professional, enjoy travel, communication, and look forward to talking. *Steven, POB 386, Larkspur, CA 94977.*

CALIFORNIA. Hi, I'm a physically challenged gay white male. I'm looking for correspondence, and a possible future meeting, with people that are open minded and intelligent enough to realize that, even though I'm unable to walk, I do have the heart and physical ability to love. I would like to correspond with, and possibly meet, other physically challenged individuals. I would also like to hear from goodlooking, able-bodied men who are open minded enough

to think that the challenged have more to offer than our wisdom. I have a great many interests, some of which include traveling, writing, reading, and bbs'ing. My favorite types of music are country and easy listening, although I also love a good classical piano concerto. Other interests include the performing arts and admiring nature. I enjoy going for a nice stroll in my chair with someone special. Even though I currently live in Southern California, I usually travel up to Northern California once a month and stay there for about a week. I have very youthful looks, a great personality, a high intelligence, and a heart that can easily get warmer than 98.6. (No that doesn't mean I get a lot of heartburn!) I look very fragile, but I think that the fact that I'm 42 and I've lived on my own for the last 20 years should be a sign that I'm not that delicate. Especially since I've been dependent on others to provide for my care. I'm sexually ready and able, but I have enough self-respect to sleep only with someone that I like. (When I was younger I felt like I had better take the sex while I had the chance.) Well, that's about it for now. I hope that I'll hear from some of you all. *Terry L. Hand, 1730 N. Towne Ave., #12, Claremont, CA 91711-3234.*

CALIFORNIA. I am 56 years old, 225 #, 5'8", very hirsute, and versatile. Use an electric scooter to get around, suffer from MS; left leg paralyzed but rest of body is in fine working order. Ex HS teacher and originally from NY. Caring, warm, looking for permanent relationship. *Adolf Sand, 3756 Cardiff Avenue #104, Los Angeles, CA 90034-4090.*

CALIFORNIA. GWM, 58, 5'11", brn/hzl, 200 #, ambulatory with structural limitations. I'm into ham radio, camping, fishing, outdoors. I have a home but spend a lot of time on the coast in the travel trailer. Seeking a compatible gay/bi man who understands the hardships of being disabled, yet in that disability has discovered the true meaning of life, and wants to share the discovery. ABLE-TOGETHER says it all! I have a loving, caring nature, and can give all to the one I love. *Bud H., POB 382, Yolo, CA 95697.*

CALIFORNIA. GWM in South Orange County looking to meet same. I am looking to make new friends and maybe even meet "Mr. Right". You can write me at POB 701, Lake Forest, CA 92630-0701, or call me at (714) 458 8965 before 10pm. Hope to hear from you soon. *Paul.*

CALIFORNIA. Attractive bi white guy, 48, 6', 180 #, college grad, professional, desires friend for safe, discreet mutual massage and exploration. I have nerve damage affecting my feet and use a 3-wheel scooter. I am healthy, active, and mobile. Please be healthy, cut, and a non-smoker. *Richard, POB 64844, Los Angeles, CA 90064.*



GAY NAVY VETERAN. Disabled gay Navy veteran wishes to correspond with penpals from all over the world - you won't be disappointed! Write today! *Robert C. Healy, 1086 Post Street #309, San Francisco, CA 94109, telephone: (415) 921 8950.*

ATTRACTED BY DIFFERENCE. Abled BiWJM 44, fit very hairy muscular 5'11" 160#, bald and *very* close-cropped, clean shaven with unshaven lower lip, warm, caring, interested, biopsychospiritually oriented graduate student presently based in San Francisco, Ca. I am pulled to you by our differences in age or physical ability, and by extremes in your self-presentation such as very long or very short hair, or large sideburns; I delight in apparent contrasts like the upper-body strength of a man walking on crutches or wheelchair athlete, and I delight in letting you know the impact you have on me and in learning how I impact you. My sense is that the kind of man you are is connecting to the part of me that enjoys putting myself across in unconventional and even spectacular ways. If you are interested to feel with me the pull generated by our surface differences or to explore with me how non-different we are underneath, or if anything I say here intrigues or in some way speaks to you, then I hope you will want to write me. Phone # greatly appreciated. *Peter. Replies with correct postage please to A-T #252.*

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA. Professional GWM, 6'1", gym toned 160 lbs, very young looking 53, light brown hair, short beard, able-bodied, HIV-, who loves home, friends, outdoor activities, and travel. A past relationship with a disabled man was wonderful and I would like to find another. I live near San Francisco but would like to correspond also with people in other areas. All replies answered. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #310.*

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA. 37 year old paraplegic, professional, love to travel, meet men, and enjoy pleasing you orally! Seeking able bodied man between ages 25-37 to see if we can connect for fun and a unique experience! *Steven Crawford, POB 4515, Laguna Beach, CA 92652, telephone: (714) 497 6141.*

CALIFORNIA. Asian, 35, L2 paraparesic; I walk with a cane, but have limited feeling below my waist. I try to live life by the philosophy that every day is a gift because it's something you didn't have the day before. *Brian Tsai, 1730 Jackson Street #109, San Francisco, CA 94109.*

SAN FRANCISCO, CA. GWM 52, baby-faced, boyish, blind, bald and basically bold, professor emeritus CSULA art department now working as a counselor with newly blind and visually impaired people, spiritual in the Franciscan Tradition, recovering co- with tunnel vision for men, all the arts (including film), an inclination

toward physical exercise and an ear for music, theater and heavy breathing, seeking long term relationship (eventually) with a guy who is evolved and comfortable with sharing his abilities and disabilities, his life, his body, his friends, his feelings and thoughts, HIV-, adventurous, funny, sensual, thoughtful, playful and centered. Call (415) 861 5604 or reply with correct postage please to A-T #614.

UNIQUE INDIVIDUAL, gay male, of Indian and black heritage, raised as a middle-class American, 66 years old, tho' my genes conspire to make me look, facially, barely 40, polio-disabled in childhood and now using an electric wheelchair to great advantage; always active, never indolent, sometime minister, counselor, and now working for our empowerment. I like the theater, musicals, motion pictures, parks, being at home, science, science fiction, and anything that strikes my fancy. My tastes in food are eclectic, with a leaning toward pastas, seafood and Chinese. I enjoy active people. Friendship is for me the only platform for all other interactions, especially including the sexual. I would welcome correspondence and interaction with other readers of ABLE-TOGETHER, disabled or abled. Replies with correct postage please to A-T #669.

CALIFORNIA. During the past few months I have heard about the work of Shelley Taylor down at UCLA. Her research apparently deals with the positive aspects of denial as a coping strategy for dealing with stress. I'd like to know if anyone has heard about her work. I understand she has been dealing with groups of HIV+ men in the LA area. I am told she feels that in addition to other coping skills such as confrontation, rumination, suppression and aggression, a new coping skill that she calls the "illusory coping skill" has been identified in the HIV+ community: it is a sort of *the glass is always half full* philosophy of life, I think, but I would like to know more about it without running up my long distance telephone bill. Thanks. Replies with correct postage to A-T #612.

CALIFORNIA. GLM, 35 years old, non-smoker, wheelchair-user, loves cinema, R & B, jazz, dining out with a good glass of wine; seeks someone with compatible interests. Jose, ph (415) 864 4084, or write to A-T Box. Replies with correct postage please to A-T #392.

MY NAME IS MICHAEL. I am 41, have black hair and brown eyes, and weigh 195 pounds. My right leg is amputated above the knee. I'm interested in making new friends and am definitely open to the possibility of romance. I enjoy going out with friends for dinner and a movie, play or concert. I also enjoy staying in for more intimate entertainment. I love listening to music, especially classical, latino, and the popular music of the 1930's. I like watching films, especially comedies and campy "B" movies. Another favorite pastime of mine is reading, especially fiction and self-help psy-



chology. I also like to travel. If any of this sounds interesting, please give me a call at ph (213) 221 6472 or write to the A-T Box. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #330.*

LOOKING FOR SOME GOOD FRIENDS. I am 46, 5'9", 170 lbs, disabled, and very interested in corresponding with anyone disabled or abled - age, weight, disability, looks, not important. I am looking not for a relationship, but for buddies for interactive exchange of photos, videos, letters, *whatever*. I have a video camera. *Ray, POB 81613, San Diego, CA 92138.*

ALL LETTERS WITH PHOTO ANSWERED. GWM, 62, retired professional, financially secure, chubby but working on it, masculine, recent diabetic without serious symptoms and optimistic. I enjoy playing piano, writing songs and listening to music, photography, backgammon, computers, long walks, dogs, quiet evenings at home, and conversations tinged with perspective and a sense of humor. I am a volunteer for the blind and am interested in your sorts of problems, also open to hearing from others. And I particularly enjoy sharing experiences with younger persons. Hopefully you are 20-40 and looking for the possibility of something more than a pen-pal. Write to: *George Green, POB 1312, Canyon Country, CA 91386-1312.*

CALIFORNIA. Hi! I'm a GWM, 44, 6', 180#, chair-man due to HIV, basically healthy. Have motorized chair and get around pretty good. I like to cook, listen to music I can understand, see movies that make me cry or laugh out loud, and being with sincere people. I have two cats, I smoke, rarely drink, no drugs. I'm looking for friends to do things with, no hurry for LTR. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #641.*

COLORADO. Young 55 white male would like to hear from above knee or above elbow amputees, also to correspond with others with similar interests. *Gene McKeever, POB 12189, Denver, CO 80212.*

COLORADO. GWM 50, abled, interested in sports for all abilities; I relate well to and would enjoy correspondence with physically disabled men. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #498.*

COLORADO. Mature, masculine, teddy bear type guy with non physically appearing disability and interests in boots, leather, seeks to meet same, 18-60, disabled or not, with similar interests. Life-long interest in guys wearing braces. Intelligent, affectionate, caring, supportive. I am relationship oriented and can travel. Your photo appreciated, mine available. Write to: *Occupant, POB 38471, Colorado Springs, CO 80937.*

GAY AND GOD GO GOOD TOGETHER! Recently retired BWM, full time RV-er, seeking handicapped young gay male as live-in travel companion. I am 64, 5'11", 215#, slightly grey dark blond hair, wear glasses, non-smoker, non-drinker, ordained baptist clergyman. I had an SSI-recipient young lover for eight years who decided he wanted to live the straight life. Now I am looking for a sincerely gay young man who can relate to an older man who wants to give and receive much love. I will answer all letters. I will be wintering in Florida and hope to start travel again in April. I have memberships in the nationwide RV associations. Money can't buy love, but I care for those I care about!!! My 32' travel trailer and GMC van will go to my companion when I am gone. I prefer someone open to the Christian faith and under 30, but all will be considered. *Ken Debus, Box 63, Lake Harbor, FL 33459.*

FLORIDA. Loyal friend, abled, masculine, eductaed, attractive, affectionate with gentle sense of humor and healthy lifestyle, 5'11", 175#, 48, br/blue, dress traditional style, enjoy cultural activities, travel, swim, outdoors, cooking, massage. I welcome contact with professional type disabled or abled 60+ gentleman who has similar attributes, is independent, happy and well adjusted, for quality friendship, caring travel companion, or possible relationship. National/international, discretion assured, photo returned. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #718.*

FLORIDA. A refugee from New England, I am at present involved as a volunteer with three amputee support groups in the Tampa - St. Pete - Clearwater area, having worked in this way for many years. I moved down here permanently from Maine. Yes... I miss the coast and the lobsters and stuff, but... I don't miss those wicked nor'easters and windstorms. I am anxious to contact ABLE-TOGETHER subscribers, to get to know one another and maybe someday get to meet and greet. I will answer all letters. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #689.*

HOPELESSLY ROMANTIC GWM 38, 6', 190lbs, br/br, mustache, abled, in search of GWM 20-48 disabled who walks with crutches. I enjoy dinners, movies, videos, the beach, amusement parks, quiet times and cuddling with that special person. I am an honest, caring trustworthy male who is interested in a monogamous relationship; I am very affectionate, loving and respectful. I live alone and close to the airport, and would welcome your visit. *Michael Kirnard, 2974 Wildhorse Road, Orlando, FL 32822, ph: (407) 249 0574.*

FLORIDA. GWM, 5'10", 190# (football player type body), 55, blue eyes, brown/grey hair, moustache, hairy, nice looking, masculine, very much in shape, together, happy-go-lucky, post-polio syndrome, wheelchair most of the time, Irish-Scotch-American Indian,



quiet with a great sense of humor, non smoker, light drinker, no drugs. Interests: swimming, music (classical, opera, Broadway, jazz), cooking, gardening, beach. Looking forward to your letters, men. *John W. Harris, 5515 Madison Street, Hollywood Hills, Fl. 33021.*

FLORIDA. WM 48, 6'5", 180lbs, b/k amp with varied interests in search of buddies to play with. Give me a call, lets talk and see what comes up. *Kent, ph. (904) 576 7843.*

GEORGIA. GWM 51, brown, blue, have polio of right leg, walk with a limp, cane and an attitude; interests in leather (top) and feet; orally sexual only and love to play all night long. I am looking for a younger man, construction or business type, no jocks. I am retired on a fixed income, but will welcome anyone coming to Atlanta. I am up very late at night and please call me on ph. (404) 787 5864 or *replies with correct postage please to A-T #091.*

OAHU, HAWAII. Aloha! My name is Ken, and I would like to meet any ABLE-TOGETHER subscribers that may be coming down to our beautiful tropical islands. I am an abled gay man, healthy and in good shape for a guy just turned 50. I am six feet tall and weigh 180 lbs. I never tire of the beach, and love to share the island lifestyle with men from the big cold island of North America. Hope to hear from friendly men out there! *Ken Smith, 841A Kainui Drive, Kailua, HI 96734.*

ALOHA FROM HAWAII! I am a 33 year old GWM on Maui who is particularly attracted to men who are amputees, especially AK and hip amputations. I am 6'1" and weigh about 190#. I have dirty blond hair and mustache. I enjoy outdoor activities, especially the beach, swimming, snorkeling, etc. I am especially turned on by Asian, Filipino, Polynesian, and Latino men, the less body hair and the more foreskin the better. Would like to correspond with any amputee or other guys who share any of the same interests as I. Take a chance and write, you never know where it might lead. Aloha. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #447.*

IOWA. Disabled single white male, 45 years old writer, wishes sincere, "professional" white male to correspond with and meet. Please write if you are interested in permanent monogamous relationship. Your sincerity and honesty are much more important to me than your physical statistics. *Bruce J. Ness, 127 Westgate Drive #22, Forest City, IA 50436.*

ILLINOIS. Hi! My name is Russ Pyle and I'm a quadriplegic. I have been for the last 14 years. I am a GWM, HIV-, and am a young looking 50 years old. I am looking for someone preferably in the Central Illinois area who is between 25 and 40 years old. I am a

very generous and open person. Prefer you be gay/bi, masculine, HIV-, well-endowed a plus. If you are interested in writing to me, let's see what might develop. Please send a picture with your letter if you can. I will answer all replies, and any location. Hope to hear from you soon!! *Russ Pyle, 1580 Highland Place, Decatur, IL 62526.*

ILLINOIS. GWM, abled, is attracted to and interested in meeting guys who wear leg braces, also guys wearing teeth braces; would also like to hear from guys with similar interests. *Terry Troutman, POB 1107, Arlington Heights, IL 60006.*

ILLINOIS. Hi! My name is Kurt; I'm 35 years old, have blond hair, blue eyes, T-12 spinal cord injury since June 1991; I'm independent, successful and good looking. Looking for friends and possibly more with the right person - able bodied or disabled. Please send photo for a quick reply. (Prefer 18-35.) *Kurt S. 2301 Broadway, Quincy, IL 62301.*

CENTRAL MASSACHUSSETTS AREA. 29 year old GWM, 5'9", 185#, brown hair/eyes, full beard, handsome looking bear-type. Left above-knee amputee ambulating with prosthesis and cane. Secure in employment, lifestyle and have adjusted to the loss of my leg which occurred in 1987. I am searching for an older man (40+), preferably with a beard or facial hair or bear admirer, who appreciates a younger man who is intelligent, sensitive, and has his head on straight. I need an older guy who is also sensitive, handsome and easy-going, to guide this young, hot man into manhood. I enjoy quiet times, food, music, conversation and Beck's beer. I have a strong sexuality. I enjoy the look and feel of leather and am open to (but not explicitly looking for) exploring non-traditional sexualities, including B&D and father-son kinds of relating, and, for the right person(s) I would consider doing a video. I would like to hear from a man who is attracted to amputees, but prefer that you not be obsessed with my stump, or overidentify with amputees. I'm a non-smoker, moderate drinker and am non-sports oriented (other than between the sheets). In the right circumstances I would be willing to relocate. *Frank, POB 105, Westside Station, Worcester, MA 01602.*

MARYLAND. GWM, mature, hairy, 6ft, blue/brown-gray, 185/190lbs. Life-long attraction to GMs with one leg shorter than the other or club foot or limp. I am truthful, loving, monogamous and seek same in mate for a permanent relationship. I like antiques, classical music & opera, cooking, travel, loving home in beautiful environment. My handicap is a short penis with small, mis-mated balls. Hope that our handicaps can be combined for mutual deep love and understanding. Please write to: *John, 1110 Fidler Lane #801, Silver Spring, MD 20910, ph. (301) 589 1873.*

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HEAVENLY MAN WITH EARTHLY PLEASURES. GWM 30, 6'1", in search of wheelchired GWM 25-45 from all over USA for friendship and possible relationship. I like alternative rock, jazz and classical music, museums, conversations over coffee, politics, candle-light dinners, sports and movies. Looks are not important to me, but honesty, openness and candor are a must. Please do not be bisexual, married, HIV, or into S&M or drugs. I welcome responses nationwide; please respond with letter, mailing address and telephone number - photo nice, but not necessary. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #653.*

MARYLAND. GWM, 35, paraplegic, 5'11", 140lbs, brown hair, hazel eyes. Very good upper body strength. My interests include music, movies, literature, sports, and having good times. I would like to correspond with GWM paraplegic, 18 to 45 years old. Interested in getting together for friendship with the possibility of a sexual and emotional relationship. I would prefer to hear only from paraplegic men but am interested in hearing from other gay disabled men too. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #470.*

SOUTH WEST MICHIGAN. GWM, retired 57 year old, 5'10", 145lbs, old polio with leg brace. I live alone and would enjoy writing to and possibly meeting others who don't mind those of us that are in some way different. I would be happy to exchange photos. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #393.*

MINNESOTA. I am a GWM who is disabled from a car accident. I walk with a cane, and use a wheelchair at times. I am a redhead, with a beard, and a light complexion. I am 34. I like to read and watch movies (especially science fiction and comedies), sip gourmet coffee, and visit. I am seeking a special friend, disabled or able-bodied. A person person. Please write, all are answered. *Bob Barr, 180 Wayzata Street #507, Saint Paul, MN 55117.*

MINNESOTA. I have a soft spot in my heart for SE Asian and/or Russian males who are 18-30, little to no body hair, chemically/drug and disease free. I am abled, rather shy and very quiet. I enjoy watching sports such as baseball, basketball, wrestling, swimming, and gymnastics. Any/all serious replies will be answered. A photo will be a plus. *Thanx!* *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #303.*

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA. I am new to ABLE-TOGETHER and am hoping this will be an opportunity to meet some great new friends. I am a GWM, 48 years old, weigh about 155 pounds, have blue eyes and brown hair and mustache. I have a neuro-muscular disability which is not too severe; I use a manual wheelchair but can walk a little. Overall I am quite healthy and a non-smoker. I am a research scientist, live independently and drive a van. In

addition to typical interests (movies, music, etc.), I have two major life goals: finding the right man for a mutually satisfying relationship, and traveling as much as possible. More about the right man later. Over the past several years I have done a lot of traveling and plan more trips in the future. I would like to find some companions for future trips, disabled or abled, depending on the trip; depending on the situation, I may be willing to cover most of the expenses. The right man for me in a personal relationship would be either disabled or abled, would be easy-going, masculine, slim to medium build, dark hair and hairy (beard and mustache a plus); he would be a non-smoker and non-drug-user. *Bill Helgeson, 410 Groveland Ave. #702, Minneapolis, MN 55403.*

SOUTH WEST MINNESOTA. 32 years old, looking for friendship, someone to be the buddy I never had, to share what life has to offer. I enjoy the outdoors, walking, sunsets and sunrises, spending time at the lake, gardening, flowers and plants. Non-smoker and no drugs. Penpals welcomed, and all replies answered. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #589.*

MISSISSIPPI. GWM, 58, 5'11", 210#, gr/br hair and beard, HIV-, use crutches or cane, seeking GWM, 35+ for friendship / relationship. Hairy body, beard and/or stache a plus. I am a smoker, moderate drinker, no drugs. I am a low vision person, so please consider that when writing. I enjoy almost all music except Rock, like camping, boating, swimming, watching some TV, travel when possible, small parties, dining in as well as dining out, also the theater, arts and museums. I consider myself to be a computer novice but I do enjoy working with the computer and learning new things. I also enjoy some of the gay BB's in my local area. I am a warm and considerate person who enjoys cuddling, kissing and making love, holding and being held. I'm not into any of the B&D or S&M scenes and do not like pain. *Sam Tolar, 1521 W. Highland Drive #H-4, Jackson, MS 39204-2117.*

I LIVE IN THE MOUNTAINS OF NORTH CAROLINA. Able bodied 58, 6'1", 220 lbs, gray hair, hazel eyes, hairy chest; I'm attracted to handicapped men; I'm retired and travel a great deal, and would love to hear from you wherever you are. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #508.*

NEW HAMPSHIRE. GWM, 46, 6', 190 lbs, HIV-, abled, honest, sincere; I love the country and mountains; I collect antiques; I travel some in the north-east. I am attracted to men who are amputees. Looking to hear from an amputee, also from someone else with similar interests. Photo and phone # appreciated. *Ed Openshaw, POB 65, Rumney, NH 03266, ph(603) 786 9922.*

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NEW JERSEY. 28-year old white guy, 5'10 1/2", 167 lbs, healthy, HIV-neg., drug-free, brown hair, blue eyes, cleanshaven, smooth body, right leg mid-thigh amputee, agile and ambulatory with prosthesis and/or crutches; my stump has full girth, is not atrophied and is very erogenous. I have a real good muscular build, hot pecs, humpy butt, and am hung. I am eager for mischievous sensuality with very tactile, sensitive partner(s), affectionate, cuddly. Depending on where the vibes take me I am open to different kinds of sexual expression and relationship, including one-on-one. You could be described as a horny tits, ass and stump man, and into fun friendship as well. I have no racial, size or age prejudices, and could even go for a m/f couple as long as the guy is bi or gay. Honest, frank communicating is a must. Your photo/phone # gets mine. *Boxholder, POB 7354, Freehold, NJ 07728.*

NORTHERN NEW JERSEY. Partially disabled, ambulatory, heavy GWM looking for lover. Me: 46, 6', 250 lbs, brown eyes, brown hair, beard, HIV -. Like to laugh, cuddle and snuggle. Like books, bookstores, classical music, restaurants, movies. You: GWM 35-50, slim to muscular, with similar likes. Letter and photo get mine. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #613.*

NEW JERSEY. Goodlooking masculine GBM, 30's, 6'3", 200lbs, b/k amp who is shy and passionate, likes movies, music, theater and sports, seeking to establish network of friends (20-50) with thirst for fun; any race welcome, please write with photo. *R. K. Williams, 539 Diamond Springs Ave., Cherry Hill, NJ 08003-3606.*

COVERS ALL EASTERN STATES! GWM, super senior mid 60's, 6'2", 220 #, long time A-T subscriber, semi retired, travels eastern seabord and New England. Attracted to leg amputees - your loss no handicap to understanding and possible friendship and/or relationship. Would also like to hear from those with a similar attraction. Drop me a line, I'll take it from there! *Steve Miller, POB 341, Union City, NJ 07087.*

NEW YORK. GWM 27, 5'10", outgoing, good sense of humor, straight acting, affectionate, enjoys beaches, movies, sunsets, just relaxing by the fire, seeks GWM 18-30, disabled a plus, for friendship, relationship. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #651.*

NEW YORK. GWM, 37, looks much younger, 5'6", 152#, br;br, college grad, handsome, deaf (ASL), quadriplegic - caused by diving accident; look like paraplegic; healthy, ex-ski instructor/racer. Wheelchair racquetball, weightlifting, camping, bowling, travel, pedal cycling, etc., - very active person outdoors. Would like to meet disabled or non-disabled under 45 (no fems or overweights). Please write with photo. *Bill Searles, Green Mansions Rd., Chestertown, NY 12817.*

NEW YORK. I am a non-disabled GWM 6 ft. 175 lbs, in-shape, HIV(-), 57, professional, affectionate, and, like everyone, I am looking for that "Special Person"! Personality and character along with a purpose in life, someone who doesn't let his handicap get him down, are important traits to me. I am particularly attracted to "Men of Color". Your picture gets mine, but not necessary. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #374.*

NEW YORK. GWM, 35, 6', br/br, sometimes beard, heavyset, good looking, masculine, living in NY. Looking to meet or correspond with men who have a physical disability: paraplegics, quads, polio or other disability. (Endowment not an issue and erection capability not necessary.) Other physical attributes are unimportant if someone is willing. I am understanding and patient and can match my pace to yours. Having been heavy my whole life, I understand how inside everyone, regardless of the packaging, there is a special person who is very attractive. I am only looking for a physical relationship, to share good times and have fun with each other, always respecting limitations and desires. I am great with my hands and can be creative and versatile in both interests and activities, given a willing partner with particular interests or needs. I can be a very generous person in the right circumstances. Also, I would love to meet, talk to and/or correspond with others who share my interests, especially, but certainly not limited to, those whose focus is on legs and bare feet. I'm great with fantasies, having had a lot of practice, and would love to share some of mine if you share some of yours. Would love to find sources for videos, books, photos, etc. I will answer all who write, please send phone and photo if possible. If you're out there, and I know you are, please write. You'll never know if something wonderful can develop if you don't take the chance. *Bert Michaels, 954 Lexington Avenue #172, New York, NY 10021.*

SUPERSTAR WANTED for starring role in my life. I'm 37, 6'2", 180#, goodlooking GWM, not disabled but looking for disabled friends for fun, romance and more. I work in the arts and travel frequently. Looking for guys ages 20-50, - perhaps post-polio with braces, wheelchair, crutches, but will answer all. *Peter Sanders, 366 West 11th Street, New York, NY 10014.*

NEW YORK. I'm looking for a male friend, in all areas, with a sense of humor, who can also be serious. Ages 30-45. In uniform, with a beard, or very hairy is a plus, but look forward to hearing from you all - send a picture if you can. *Jay Costello, 146A Jackman Drive, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603.*

ITALIAN-AMERICAN! Hi, I'm an Italian-American disabled male with big loving heart and squeezable body, and I am looking for an able-bodied, good-built Italian-American male. I am looking

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for friendship first, sharing love and life. I am kind, considerate, and full of love to give to *caro ragazzo mio* . Is it you? *Pasquale J. Monaco, 180 Bethel Loop, #9E, Brooklyn, NY 11239, (718) 942 0701.*

NEW YORK. Able bodied GWM searching for disabled and abled contacts for good conversation (by phone or letter), possible meeting and sharing mutual feelings. I am 40 years old, 5'7", dark hair, blue eyes, a professional, very preppy in appearance and dress. I am hearing impaired and wear hearing aids - but they only help to make communication better! *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #264.*

NEW YORK. WM, 49, 5'8", 175 lbs, brown hair and eyes, clean-shaven, smooth body, very muscular bubble butt, affectionate, non-smoker, HIV negative, polio survivor, use cane for stairs only, able-bodied in appearance, seek friendship, hot times, pen-pals. Prefer local men but am open to travel. Photo / phone # helpful, and please be a non-smoker. Thank you! *Box 8211, Jackson Heights, Queens, NY 11372.*

DO YOU HAVE A DRIVER'S LICENSE? I'm Joe, 47 year old GWM, 5'10", 175 lbs, light brown hair with gray trim and balding, hazel eyes, moustache, and not bad looking. I had a stroke in 1981, have a very slight limp, erection unpredictabilities, doing fine otherwise. I have a great deal of love to give to the right person, and it's a great sensation for me to please another. You would be younger, masculine, handsome, hopefully but not necessarily hairy, endowed, and willing to share expenses. I'm on SSI, have a dog, an all white retriever named BEAR, have my BS, am a qualified chef, am very loving, honest, trustworthy, loyal, caring and most affectionate. I would willingly do the laundry, cooking and cleaning. I don't smoke, drink, or have any involvement with drugs. I am very clean, HIV negative, and hopefully you are also. I don't mind a social drinker, but I do mind drugs, alcoholics. Smoke bothers me, but I can adjust. If you're interested in the pleasures I can supply, which would in turn greatly satisfy me, please respond with your photo, birthdate, stats, and date you could be here the soonest. Where would you want to move to so we could both get a fresh start? *Joe Krulisky, 1969 Falls Street # 1, Niagara Falls, NY 14303-1713.*

I LOVE TO SHARE NEW YORK WITH VISITORS. 46 yo WM, physician able-bodied, loss of vision in left eye since car accident. Interested in friendship - and/or... My first lover was an amputee and I would be interested to connect with someone with a similar disability. Enjoy opera, theater, travel, singing with NYC Gay Men's Chorus. Give a call if you're in the Big Apple! *Michael B. Gehl, 95 Horatio Street #706, New York, NY 10014, telephone: (212) 255 4140.*

YOUR PHOTO GETS MINE. Goodlooking, well-built, GWM, 45, 5'8", 150 lbs, green eyes, salt and pepper crew cut, into weight-lifting, motorcycles, leather, videos, photos and my very good imagination! Am attracted to men with one or more amputations and would love to hear from one such, also from someone else with similar interests. Looking for correspondence and maybe more. Any takers? *Alan Johnson, 487 East Main Street #158, Mount Kisco, NY 10549-0110.*

NEW YORK. GWM, 41, 5'11", 155 lbs, good youthful muscular looks, swimmer's body, brown hair, hazel eyes, multilingual, abled; interested in travel, reading, music from opera to house, and cooking; seeking disabled friend, 25-45, - especially if you are Arab, Indian or Latino. *Paul S. Rankin, 50 Bank Street, New York, NY 10014.*

WANTED: LIFEMATE/BEST FRIEND. Italian, 40, 5'10", 190 lbs, caring, sincere, passionate, Christian, honest, secure, broad interests in and out of bed, outgoing, fun, seeks you:- butch boy 28-44, masculine, perhaps in a chair or hearing impaired (I know sign language), serious, relationship-oriented, sincere, honest, secure, a little shy, Christian, enjoy life, caring, sense of humor, drug-free, HIV-. I live in Finger Lakes area of New York State. Write to A-T Box or call Bill, ph. (607) 962 4354 6pm-9pm weekdays. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #428.*

NEW YORK. GWM, abled, 35, 185, 6', very handsome with Mediterranean good looks, brown hair and eyes, clean shaven, muscular, athletic and gym-fit; looking to meet all types of physically disabled men, especially attracted to amps, paras and post-polio guys. I'm HIV- and into very hot safe sex and mutual satisfaction. Write or call: *Alex Exarchos, 135 West 79th Street, New York, NY 10024, ph (212) 595 5755.*

NEW YORK. 43 year-old, shy, learning-disabled gay hispanic man with young skin, interested in correspondence. I want to know how to be an excellent lover in and out of the bedroom - any of your ideas might be helpful. *Ramon Bellido, POB 2526, New York, NY 10027.*

OHIO. SWM, 40 years old, 140 lbs, HIV-, non-smoker and non-drug-user, drink very little, lost my right arm at the shoulder due to a motorcycle wreck. I am a very sincere, honest and responsible person. I would like to find the same qualities in a man who would like either to have a one to one relationship with me or just to be a good friend so that we could be honest with and have a good time with each other. *Dana K. Hale, 800 Everhard Road SW #707, North Canton, OH 44709.*



PORLAND, OREGON AREA. GWM, mid 30's, 5'10", 165 lbs, lt brown hair, blue eyes, able bodied. Would like to meet or correspond with disabled guys. I have a special fondness for amputees, but would like to hear from all, also from abled guys who share my interests. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #472.*

PENNSYLVANIA. 22 year old GWM, brown hair and eyes, and thin. I have mildly-severe Cerebral Palsy, which affects my ability to walk and talk, however I can be understood on the phone. I am ambulatory, but use a chair for long distances. Presently I am a college student at Temple University majoring in business. My interests/hobbies include computers, reading, writing, world affairs, and disability-related issues. I am a very open, sincere, and non-judgmental person who enjoys getting to know other people. I have an excellent ear and know how to be a good listener. I am looking to get to know people of any age or who have any disability for friendship and possibly more. I hope to hear from you soon. *Brian, 352 Valley Brook Road, Apt. A-6, Ambler, PA 19002, ph(215) 540 0411.*

PENNSYLVANIA. GWM, 39, sincere, warm, caring, intelligent, humorous, shy Leo, handsome (blush!), dark hair, beard, blue eyes, hairy back-butt-legs, HIV-, person with a disability, power wheelchair user, seeks friendship for mutual support, computer BBS-ers (?), videos, music, hugs, safe times, r/fr. No drugs, smoke, pain. *CWF, 3901 Market Street #1913, Philadelphia, PA 19104-3131.*

PENNSYLVANIA. GWM, 6'4", T-7 para, brown hair, blue eyes, 180 lbs, 41 yrs, braces, big balls, penile implant ever-ready. Like long, hard, safe, sane, horny encounters; enjoy travel, movies, mountains, sweaty nights and sticky mornings. Your letter, photo get mine. Stay well! *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #529.*

PENNSYLVANIA. I'm a black male, 38 years old, 5'10", 291lbs, I have salt & pepper receding hairline and brown eyes. I have a slight mental disability. I am seeking a life-mate who is willing to relocate or I am willing to relocate for the right person. Please write or call at any time. *Edward Harris, 1041 West 1st Street, Oil City, PA 16301-3201, ph. (814) 676 3240.*

IN SEARCH OF ABLED LIFE MATE. Non-mainstream GWM, 50, 5'8", 145#, bl/bl, simple, quiet, honest professional, traveled performer and arts educator with very high public profile. I am discreet, masculine, caring, sensitive and daring, a risk-taker. Physical disability due to polio, use wheelchair, but not confined to it, not paralyzed. Disability does not mean dependent. If you are a 40+ vital, masculine, articulate, loving man with a sense of himself and his sexuality who understands the words *loyalty, commitment, responsibility*, and wants to share the future and a monogamous

relationship with another warm and understanding man, then write to *POB 654, Emmaus, PA 18049.*

REGULAR TEXAN, inexperienced GWM 29, short brown hair and green eyes, very thin (110lbs) but definitely not feminine, cannot walk - wheelchair-user for nine years - but have all functions. I was raised on a farm and am college educated. Tho' living in the city I like the rustic environment, animals, lakes, fishing. I would like to correspond with and possibly meet abled GM interested in long term relationship. I am a decent human being with a heart as big as Texas. *Darren LeBlanc, 7908 Heatherbrook Trail #1007, Port Arthur, TX 77642.*

TEXAS. I'm a 35 year old man who has a disability with cerebral palsy but have a lot going for myself. I am currently working on my degree in sociology and want to work as a social worker with people with disabilities. My interests are swimming, movies, eating out and just meeting the right kind of people who aren't snobs. I am a people person that means I like meeting people - and I'm an adventurous person. *Lee Henderson, 13030 Audelia Road #1102, Dallas, TX 75243.*

TEXAS NORTH EAST. GWM, 56, 5'10", 165#, blond hair, blue eyes, wear glasses, nice-looking, disease-free, gym-going in good shape former forrester/logger living in a small country town; I am masculine, sincere, affectionate and very sexual; I enjoy fishing, hunting, camping, gardening and more. I am seeking a one-on-one relationship with a younger man, attractive, slender/trim, clean, intelligent, disease-free, affectionate, loyal honest and very sexual, a guy who is honestly looking for an older man. My limitations are a congenital visual problem, which impairs my ability to drive in and travel to cities, but not much else; also a work-related back injury which prevents me from doing heavy lifting. I am open to the possibility of relocation. *J. D., POB 221, Royse City, TX 75189.*

VIRGINIA. GWM, professional, 40, wishes to meet and / or correspond with amputees and other physically challenged people. *Michael Allen, POB 19435, Alexandria, VA 22320.*

VIRGINIA. My name is John Christopher Barrett. I have cerebral palsy and use a power chair for mobility. I am a white single gay male in my forties (but look younger), have black hair, dark brown eyes, am moderately hairy, 5'1" tall, and weigh around 135 lbs. I am employed at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) as an Office Services Specialist at the Rehabilitation Research and Training Center (RRTC) on Supported Employment. I usually work four days a week and am off on Fridays, unless I'm away on a business trip. I enjoy going to the gay bars/ clubs, enjoy dining out, enjoy

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dancing, enjoy going to movies and concerts, enjoy most types of music, and enjoy shopping. Cruising is my favorite pastime. I also like some sports, especially Ice Hockey and beach Volleyball. I like the beach as well as the mountains, nature, animals, and just life itself! Also I enjoy the nudist lifestyle when I'm home. I'm out there and you're out there, so why not let's get together and see what happens. If you are interested in getting together for an initial date, please call me! I am hot and horny! *John Christopher Barrett, 300 West Franklin Street, #103-W, Richmond, VA 23220, telephone # (804) 643 1410 after 5pm or at weekends.*

VIRGINIA. GWM, 53, 5'8" 150#, brown/blue; diagnosis - MS (still not definite); symptoms - walking difficulty, bladder and sexual dysfunction; personal interests - history, movies, trains, gay male erotica. I plan to relocate back to Cleveland in a few years and I am especially interested in hearing from A-T subscribers in NE Ohio. *Mike Arian, 1215 N Fort Myer Drive # 708, Arlington, VA 22209, telephone: (703) 524 0612.*

WASHINGTON. Able-bodied GWM wants to correspond with GM with disability; am familiar with blindness, so tapes ok. *Replies with correct postage to A-T #549.*

APRIL '57 PIERCE ARROW CLASSIC has become available. This model comes with a sandy brown top, blue headlights and good rubber with a spare for the trunk. The interior is appointed with lush burgundy seats that still have a lot of wear left in both the front and back. And plastic mats are provided to protect the interior from swimmers with sand on their feet. If you love music you will love this model. This rare car has good gas mileage so doesn't need to pull up every time it sees a gas pump nozzle. If reliability, credibility and systems that function on integrity are important to you then you must check this one out. V8 under the hood makes this model ideal for road rallies and evenings at the symphony or theater or for long distance travel. Most comfortable in the city but the country is nice for weekend getaways. A few minor dings exist on the body's finish but will still pass the Nissan ballbearing test! Seeking new owner that loves himself as well as those people that he holds dear. Your career is not important 'though I would like you to enjoy what you do. This model has only had two previous owners and will certainly not last long on the market. New owner should be height/weight proportionate and 28-48ish. Full history supplied and test drives currently available for those with an open mind and heart. *Dan, POB 20525, Seattle, WA 98102, ph. (206) 323 6969.*

TACOMA, WASHINGTON AREA. 67 years old, healthy man, large body, with a lot of love, care and consideration for the right person. I can be a real help to someone who needs a little TLC or

whatever. Long term friendship desirable. Replies with correct postage please to A-T #704.

PACIFIC NORTH-WEST. Single white male, 5'11" tall, 180 lbs, 55 years old, abled, having car and full-time job, seeking male disabled or abled living not too distantly. As I spend time in Bremerton, Tacoma and Seattle I am hoping to hear from someone living in western Washington state, but I am also open to hearing from those in Oregon and BC Canada. Write to *Rod Carter, POB 527, Manchester, WA 98353-0527.*

AUSTRALIA. GWM, 44, 6'2", 180#, able-bodied, professional guy working in strategic marketing and advertising, lived worked and studied in USA in 1976-77, loves Americans, attracted to physically challenged guys who love life and getting on with it. Get to USA about once a year, keen to correspond, talk to, meet guys who are amps, wheelies or wear braces. Don't let the tyranny of distance be another barrier! I love the outdoors, horses, surf, wining, dining, film, theater, reading, and mutually rewarding, non role playing safe sex. Why not write and claim your own live Aussie mate? *Ross Hepburn, 65 Finch Street, East Malvern, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia 3145.*

AUSTRALIA. GM, 44, 191cm tall, weigh almost 100kg, with shoulder length reddish hair and a beard. Work as HIV educator, but photography has been my passion since I was 16. Much involved in Sydney gay community, supporting people with HIV, and e.g. as photographer for Mr. Drummer competitions. Mostly Baroque music and instrumental jazz, no C & W. When I cook it is usually provincial French. Live alone in a c1900 flat just 15 minutes from the center of Sydney (sorry 18 steps up and no wheelchair access). I am a smoker and occasional drinker. I lived with a lover who was blind for ten years and am sensitiv to people who are different. I would really welcome visitors! My only restrictions are that you have to be self-sufficient during the day, while I am at work, and please contribute to food costs. Looking forward to planning your visit with you! *David Edwards, POB 95, Westgate, 2048 Australia.*

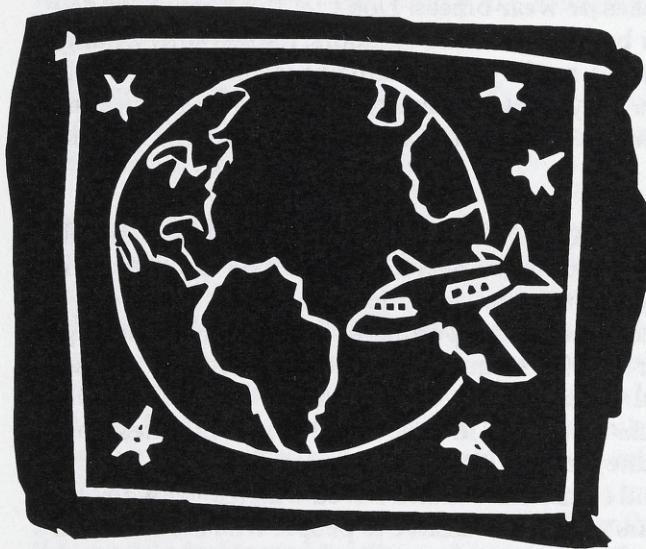
ENGLAND. Hi there! I'm an English GWM, 39, 6'2", 160lbs, seeking friendships and exchanges and hopefully an intimate relationship. I'm polio-disabled but fully mobile and independent. I'm straight-acting, masculine, caring, loving and affectionate; also unselfish, loyal and dependable. I'm into travel, music, socializing and much more. Am relaxed, easy-going and open-minded. I live on the south coast about 2 hours from London in a wheelchair-friendly bungalow and welcome houseguests. I also speak German and French and basic Spanish. Hope to hear from you real soon. Take care

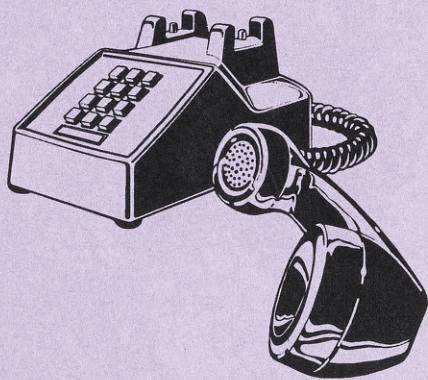


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now. *Paul Williams, 4 Dawn Close, Ensbury Park, Bournemouth, Dorset, BH10 4BL, England. Ph# (UK) 1202-548669.*

GREECE. Greek male, 38 years old, architect, 80kg, 190cm, able bodied, brown hair and eyes. I am attracted to, and identify with amputees. Would like to get in touch with leg or arm amps, ages 25-55, from all over the world, as well as other guys with similar feelings. *George Kalyterakis, 32 Skoufa Street, Athens 10673, Greece.*





Keep in touch with Able Together!
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